

BESURE Study 2004-2014: Baltimore site of National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS)

The National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) system is a CDC-funded project conducted in 21 cities in the United States, including Baltimore. The purpose is to measure HIV prevalence, HIV risk behaviors, HIV testing behaviors, and exposure to prevention services over time among persons at high risk for infection. NHBS has three cycles focusing on different groups: men who have sex with men (MSM), injection drug users (IDU), and heterosexuals at risk of HIV infection (HET). Information from NHBS guides prevention and HIV counseling and testing services in Baltimore. It also helps guide and improve overall HIV/AIDS surveillance, and provide a better understanding of trends in HIV infection in Baltimore and throughout the United States.

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene receives funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to participate in the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) System and to collect data for the Baltimore-Towson metropolitan area. In Baltimore, the NHBS is performed as a collaboration between the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and operates as the Behavioral Surveillance Research Study or BESURE.

Survey methods and sample characteristics, BESURE 2004-2010

	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4
Men who have sex with men (MSM)	Jun 04-Apr 05	Jul-Oct 2008	Aug-Dec 2011	Jun-Dec 2014
Data collection method	VBS	VBS	VBS	VBS
Total MSM in past year*	645	448	404	455
HIV prevalence	37.7%	37.5%	42.6%	30.6%
Prevalence unrecognized HIV infection	58.4%	78.4%	67.3%	33.1%
Injection drug users (IDU)	Aug 06-Jan 07	Sep-Dec 2009	Aug-Dec 2012	
Data collection method	RDS	RDS	RDS	
Total IDU in past year recruited*	539	507	617	
HIV prevalence	11.9%	16.2%	23.3%	
Prevalence unrecognized HIV infection	50.0%	41.2%	27.8%	
Heterosexuals at high risk (HRH)	July-Oct 2007	Sep-Dec 2010	Sept-Dec 2013	
Data collection method	VBS	RDS	RDS	
Total recruited *	310	338	505	
HIV prevalence	3.6%	6.3%	6.5%	
Prevalence unrecognized infection	90.9%	62.5%	36.4%	

*Complete survey and HIV test

RDS=Respondent Driven Sampling; VBS=Venue Based Sampling

Note: Differences in HIV prevalence and unrecognized infection may be due to sample differences across waves.

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For more info: <http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CHSE/SitePages/behavioral-surveillance.aspx>



Publications

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